



June 2010

Tehama County FSA News

Tehama County USDA Service Center

Tehama County FSA Office
2 Sutter St. Ste. C
Red Bluff, CA 96080
530-527-3013 (phone)
530-527-7451 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

County Committee

David Lester
Mike Anderson
Jack Moser
Edwardo Curiel – Advisor

County Executive Director:

Darci Cullers

Staff:

Donna McKenna, PT
Laurelle Medeiros, PT
Ed DeBauche, FLO
Sandy Davidson, FLOT
Jill Monson, FL PT

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES

District Conservationist

Larry Branham

Range Specialist

Erik Ross

Soil Conservationist

Rae Ann Dubay

2010 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long established, with large or small operations. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility

FSA county committees operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal laws. County committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decisions.

Election Period

June 15, 2010 – The nomination period begins. Request nomination forms from the local USDA Service Center or obtain online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Aug. 2, 2010 - Last day to file nomination forms (FSA-669A) at the local USDA Service Center.

Nov. 5, 2010 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters.

Dec. 6, 2010 - Last day to return voted ballots to the USDA Service Center.

Jan. 1, 2011 - Newly elected county committee members take office.

Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA.
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election.
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate.

For the 2010 Tehama County COC Election, LAA #3 is the eligible area for re-election. This includes land west of the Sacramento River to the Trinity County Line, and south of Gyle Road to the Glenn County Line.

Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at:

http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/fsa0669a_commiteelectform.pdf

Nomination forms for the 2010 election must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 2, 2010.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers

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or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed in the office that administers the producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

Tree Assistance Program (NEW)

Assistance for orchardists and nursery tree growers with weather-related losses can now be obtained through the Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Signup began Monday, May 10, 2010 for growers to apply for benefits under TAP.

The TAP program, authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill, provides help to orchard and nursery tree growers who produce trees, bushes and vines for commercial purposes, to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters.

To be eligible for TAP, producers must have suffered more than a 15% death loss due to the natural disaster after adjustment for normal mortality (3%), **totaling an 18% loss**. TAP is a cost-reimbursement program, with payments covering up to 70% of replant costs and 50% of pruning, removal and other salvaging costs replacing or salvaging damaged trees.

Producers can receive assistance for up to 500 acres of trees, bushes or vines. Producers must have also have purchased a policy or plan of insurance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), or for 2008 crop year a waiver of the risk management purchase requirement could be obtained through the 2008 Buy-In provision. Eligible losses must have occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2008, and before Oct. 1, 2011.

The deadline to turn in an application and all supporting documentation for losses that occurred between Jan. 1, 2008 and **before** May 7, 2010 is **July 6, 2010**.

Producers who suffer losses that occur after

May 7, 2010, must submit an application and supporting documents within 90 calendar days from the:

- Date of the disaster event, **OR**
- Date the loss became apparent to the producer

Please contact the Tehama FSA office for more information about TAP.

NAP Program

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2010 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop(s) for 2011, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports
- Provide proof of harvested production using acceptable methods, such as packing house receipts, farmers market sales re-ports, etc.
- Notifying FSA within **15 days** of damaging weather event, or within **15 days** of the crop damage becoming apparent. (Including grasses)
- Notifying FSA prior to completion of harvest for all hand harvested crops.

Please see the deadline dates for **2011** coverage listed below:

| Closing Date | Crop |
|--------------|---|
| 8/1/2010 | Fall Seeded Crops |
| 9/1/2010 | Forage Seed Crops (alfalfa, clover, grass, etc) |
| 12/1/2010 | Forage Crops (intended use is grazing; rangeland) |
| 12/1/2010 | Honey |
| 12/15/2010 | Fruit/Nut Trees (olives, persimmons, grapes, peaches, pears, etc) |

*For a more detailed listing of crops, please contact the Tehama FSA office.

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NAP Production Reporting

Production records for individual crops need to be filed with our office to establish an approved NAP yield. If this is the first year you participated in NAP, you can provide production and acreage information from prior years to establish your yield. **If you participated in NAP in previous years, you must report your production and acreage on a yearly basis to keep your yield up-to-date.** Records submitted must be reliable or verifiable. We recommend producers submit production records as soon as harvest is complete. **All production records must be submitted by the subsequent crop year's final acreage reporting date (for 2009 production, submit by July 15, 2010).**

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your current commercial lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early.

FSA employees can help you complete the necessary application and other forms, and help you understand what information is required and where to find it. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the Tehama FSA office.

Socially Disadvantage Producers

The USDA Farm Service Agency continues to reach out to women, ethnic and minority farmers. In 2009, "49.8% of the loans California FSA approved were to minority or socially disadvantaged applicants" according to Val Dolcini, State Executive Director for California, equaling about \$43.3 million.

FSA defines a socially disadvantaged (SDA) farmer, rancher or agricultural producer as one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as a member of the group, without regard to his or her individual qualities. SDA groups are women, Blacks or African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders.

SURE Program

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters incurred in the crop years 2008 through September 30, 2011. To be eligible for SURE payments, a producer is required to obtain crop insurance **on all crops in all counties** or, if crop insurance is not available, to participate in the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) except for grazed acreage. However, crop insurance or NAP coverage is no longer required for crops that are not of economic significance or those where the administrative fee required to buy NAP coverage exceeds 10% of the value of the coverage.

Eligible farmers and ranchers who meet the definition of Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, or Beginning Farmer or Rancher are exempt from the risk management purchase requirement.

The following conditions trigger SURE payments:

- At least one crop of economic significance must suffer a 10% production loss due to an eligible disaster condition
- Crop of economic significance is a crop that has contributed, or would have contributed, at least 5% or more of the total expected revenue from all crops on the farm
- Crop is in a county declared a disaster county by the Secretary of Agriculture, or in contiguous counties, or producer shows proof of an individual loss of at least 50%.

SURE payments can apply to crop production or crop quality losses. Losses are measured with consideration to the whole-farm revenue, which includes crop insurance indemnities and commodity program payments, so that producers are not paid more than once for the same loss.

A SURE calculator is available at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=sure>. The calculator is not official, but is intended for educational use. A fact sheet and background are also available online.

The Tehama County FSA office is currently taking applications for losses that occurred during the 2008 crop year. Please call the Tehama FSA office to make an appointment to apply.

Tehama County FSA Office
2 Sutter Street, Ste. C
Red Bluff, CA 96080



PRESORTED STANDARD
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Measurement Service

Farmers who would like a guarantee on their crop plantings and land use acreages can make it official by using the FSA measurement service. Producers must file a request with the county office staff and pay the cost of a field visit for GPS referencing of the farm. Measurement service is available using digital imagery. If data already exists in a certified database and an on-site visit is not required, there is no charge.

Incorrect acreage self-certification can result in reduced program payments, penalty, or loss of eligibility.

Producers can request ortho-imagery and CLU (common land unit) coordinates for their land (commonly referred to as a clip) at no charge. This service provides you with both acreages and field boundaries.

| Dates to Remember | | |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 15 June | | Deadline: Turn in CCC-927/928 Form to IRS |
| 15 June | | COC Nominations Open for LAA #3 |
| 5 July | | CLOSED- Independence Day |
| 6 July | | Deadline: Jan 1, 2008 – May 6, 2010 TAP losses |
| 15 July | | Deadline: Spring Seeded Acreage Reporting |
| 2 August | | Last day to submit COC Nominations for LAA #3 |
| 2 August | | Last day to submit Recon request for crop year 2010 |
| 6 September | | CLOSED-Labor Day |
| Ongoing | | 2008 SURE Program Signups |
| See NAP, page 2 | | Deadline: NAP Coverage for 2011 crops |

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."